

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4268

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR ECG REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM: NORWAY

REF: OSLO 4254

1. I GREATLY HOPE THAT AN APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED NEXT WEEK FOR LARS KORVALD TO SEE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS ON THE IEP. KORVALD IS CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY WHICH HAS 20 OUT OF 155 SEATS IN THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT. HE WAS PRIME MINISTER IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IN POWER BETWEEN BRATTELI'S RESIGNATION FOLLOWING THE REFERENDUM ON EEC MEMBERSHIP IN 1972 AND BRATTELI'S REELECTION LAST YEAR. HE IS TRAVELING IN THE U.S. FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS ON A USIS INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT AND CAN BE REACHED THROUGH CU AND/OR THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS INSTITUTE. HE VISITED WASHINGTON IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND IS EXPECTED BACK FOR SEVERAL DAYS ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 26.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND RECENTLY SUGGESTED TO ME IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR CONSIDERATION BY PARLIAMENT OF NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP IF WE COULD BRING HOME TO KORVALD WHILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON THE KEY POSITION OF THE IEP IN OVERALL WESTERN
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STRATEGY AND THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION

IN IT. AS STATED IN THE REFTEL, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY KRISTIANSEN HAS INDICATED THAT HIS PARTY WILL SUPPORT NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION. THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IS ALSO EXPECTED TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THESE TWO PARTIES THE LABOR PARTY OUGHT TO HAVE ENOUGH VOTES IN PARLIAMENT IN FAVOR OF NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP EVEN IF THERE ARE DEFECTIONS FROM THE LEFT WING OF THE LABOR PARTY. SINCE THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY OPPOSED NORWEGIAN EEC MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT OF THAT PARTY FOR IEP PARTICIPATION WOULD ALSO SERVE TO ELIMINATE THE DANGER OF AN ANTI-IEP COALITION SIMILAR TO THE COALITION WHICH OPPOSED EEC MEMBERSHIP. WHILE WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY EARLY INDICATIONS FROM KRISTIANSEN THAT THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY WILL SUPPORT PARTICIPATION, WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT KORVALD AND THE MAJORITY OF THE CPP SHARE HIS GENERALLY MORE INTERNATIONALIST VIEWS. WE FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, TO TRY TO BUTTONDOWN KORVALD'S SUPPORT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS TO SEE KORVALD WHEN KORVALD IS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO SECURE HIS SUPPORT FOR NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP.
BYRNE

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